

Roles and Responsibilities

The roles of each of the entities involved in the allocation of funding from stakeholder Category III contributions, state funding from Prop 204 for Category III, and federal funding appropriated under the authorization for \$430 million are detailed below. How these roles are integrated into the planning process is summarized in the attached table.

Ecosystem Roundtable The Ecosystem Roundtable's mission is to provide stakeholder input on the coordination of existing and anticipated state and federal ecosystem restoration and management programs including ecosystem restoration projects to be funded by the state, federal and stakeholder contributions to Category III.

Bay-Delta Advisory Council The CALFED Bay-Delta Program restoration coordination program staff will provide BDAC with regular updates on the planning process as well as any advice received from the Ecosystem Roundtable. The final list of projects and programs along with any advice from the Ecosystem Roundtable will be presented to BDAC.

CALFED Bay-Delta Program Restoration Coordination Program The restoration coordination program staff will be responsible for the day to day management of the planning process. This will include seeking technical input from experts, preparing reports, and administering the project selection process.

CALFED Management Team CALFED managers will be regularly updated on the progress of the Restoration Coordination Program as the planning process is implemented. CALFED will also have liaisons attending the Ecosystem Roundtable meetings including Laura King, Patrick Wright, and Marc Luesebrink. CALFED managers will make the final decision on each of the four steps of the planning process.

Recommended Action:

- *CALFED should approve these roles and responsibilities.*
- *USFWS and DFG should provide a liaison to the Ecosystem Roundtable to improve coordination.*

Implementation Strategy

A draft Implementation Strategy that identifies near term priorities for habitats, species, and ecosystem processes has been circulated to the PCT Liaisons and to the Ecosystem Roundtable. It has been redrafted but several issues have been identified that CALFED needs to decide. They are the following:

- Currently, aquatic species are the focus, not terrestrial species. Some constituents would like to add a focus on terrestrial species including waterfowl that use seasonal wetlands.

- Others have asked that vernal pool habitats also be given a priority. Although this habitat type has declined, it is not central to the CALFED Program.
- Currently, striped bass are a priority species and Sacramento River fall run chinook salmon are not based on the rationale in the document. The Roundtable discussed the striped bass priority and agreed that it was appropriate. DFG has raised the issue of whether Sacramento River fall run chinook salmon should be added.

Recommended Action:

- ***Terrestrial species should not be included in the Implementation Strategy. Vernal pool habitats should also not be included. The seasonal wetlands habitat type should be redrafted so that it could include restoration with active management designed to recreate natural processes.***
- ***Striped bass should be included as a priority species. Fall run chinook salmon should be a priority species where the populations have shown serious declines (San Joaquin River system and potentially in the Mokelumne system).***

Administrative Entity

The stakeholders are close to reaching consensus on the use of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) for administration of stakeholder contributions to Category III. The stakeholders have also inquired if state bond funds and federal appropriations could be administered through NFWF.

NFWF is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization established by Congress in 1984. NFWF has agreed that if they become the administrator of these funds, they will not have the option of disapproving specific projects that have been selected. They have also agreed that any funds on deposit will be expeditiously transferred back to any new entity established as part of the long term program. The overhead rate they have quoted is 5% which would include treasury functions and contract administration.

Reserve/Emergency Funds

As shown by the New Year's Day floods, new opportunities and challenges in ecosystem restoration can develop quickly. To give CALFED the flexibility to respond to these types of opportunities, it is recommended that the majority of the funds be allocated through the planning process but 5 or 10% of the funds be reserved for "opportunity" projects.

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